

Suggested Remarks
USAID Mission Director Jon Lindborg
CIP Turn Over Ceremony
Purok Maligang Footbridge
Malapatan, Sarangani Province
12 May 2006, at 2:00 P.M.

The Honorable Gov. Miguel Dominguez,
The Honorable Mayor Alfonso Singcoy,
USG and GEM Program Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the U.S. Government and the American people, it is a great pleasure and a privilege to be here with you all today, as we conduct the ceremonial turnover of another Community Infrastructure Project, the Purok Maligang Footbridge.

This facility is one of 800 community infrastructure and post-harvest facility projects that U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the Government of the Philippines, is planning to

build by the end of 2007, through our Growth with Equity in Mindanao, or GEM Program.

These types of facilities, as well as a number of larger infrastructure improvements that we will also support, all aim to help improve the quality of life in the beneficiary communities. They also complement other important efforts that the U.S. Government and our Philippine partners are conducting in the areas of microfinance, improved governance, education, family planning, health and nutrition, environmental management, and renewable energy.

While this simple facility will provide the residents of Purok Maligang in Barangay Sapu Masla with a footbridge to facilitate the transport of people and products to and from this area, it can also serve a larger purpose. It can demonstrate that the partnership between a community and our two governments -- mutually committed to peace and prosperity in Mindanao -- can achieve true progress, and real results. Thanks to these partnerships, we see before us

today a concrete expression of the benefits of peace.

The American people are truly pleased to be able to help those who are committed to peace and who have the vision to see a brighter tomorrow for this barangay, the Municipality of Malapatan, the Province of Sarangani, and all of Mindanao and the Philippines.

Thank you.